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**CITY OF SANTA FÉ**  
**BICYCLE & TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**October 21, 2015**

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**MINUTES OF THE  
BICYCLE AND TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, October 21, 2015

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the City of Santa Fe Bicycle and Trail Advisory Committee was called to order by Councilor Patti Bushee, Chair at approximately 5:30 p.m., on the above date, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Patti Bushee, Chair  
Frank Herdman, Vice Chair  
Joseph Abbatacola  
Paul Cooley  
Gretchen Grogan  
James Ronald Pacheco  
Tomás Rivera

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

John Longworth  
Shelley Robinson

**OTHERS PARTICIPATING:**

Melissa McDonald, Staff Liaison  
Nathan Todd, MPO Intern  
Erick Aune, MPO  
Tim Rogers, SFCT  
Melessia Helberg for Carl Boaz, Stenographer

There was a quorum of the membership in attendance for the conducting of official business.

**NOTE: All items in the Committee packets for all agenda items are incorporated herewith to these minutes by reference. The original Committee packet is on file in the Public Works Department.**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Member Grogan moved to approve the agenda as presented. Member Abbatacola seconded the**

**motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 9, 2015**

**Member Grogan moved to approve the minutes from September 9, 2015 as presented. Member Cooley seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

[Stenographer's Note: There was no BTAC meeting on September 9, 2015. The minutes for the September 16, 2015 were included in the packet and the Stenographer assumed the motion was meant for that meeting.]

#### **5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mr. Stephen Newhall, 601 W. San Mateo, #92, Santa Fe, the Wilderness Alliance is once again trying to turn much of the Santa Fe Forest into wilderness which will mean mountain bikers are kicked out and make forest fire prevention impossible. Cyclists in Santa Fe have to be aware of the Wilderness Alliance power play and contact our federal elected officials to keep it from happening.

Mr. Tom Brown, 2218 Camino Rancho Siringo, President of the Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, said they are working with the Wilderness Alliance now to come up with a plan we can all agree to. City Council had approved a blanket resolution in 2010 that approved the wilderness area. Since then, buffers are needed between the wilderness and the City limits with foothills development. There is no way to get in and we need to understand how it will impact the City with the forest. He is a biking constituent and supportive of biking in Santa Fe. He urged the Committee to look at that resolution again and consider the talking points regarding the expansion of the wilderness.

Ms. SonyaMarie Martínez, organizer in Chainbreaker, a bicycle advocacy organization and the majority of members are bicyclists. Ms. Martínez read from a prepared statement concerning the limitations of the Zagster style bike sharing program [attached as Exhibit 1].

Ms. Bridget Wolf, living on the south side, asked the Committee to consider everybody when making proposals for bike sharing. The proposed program would only serve a tiny population. This Committee would like to get as many people as possible riding bicycles. Connecting multi-use trails throughout the City is important. Chainbreaker is helping people to ride bicycles that could not afford to do so otherwise.

Mr. Martin Gite, biker on the south side, said the bikeshare program downtown will not serve people on the south side where a lot of people don't have a credit/debit card to get access to the program. It is a great idea, but we should look closer at it. ~~There are other ways to involve the whole City.~~ This proposal is more of a tourist thing than something we all can use it.

#### **6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES**

**a. MPO Update – Bike Sharing (Erick Aune)**

Mr. Erick Aune, Santa Fe MPO, who, upon a request from the last meeting, gave an update on the proposed program. At the last meeting, the social equity issue came up. An idea at MPO is to consider using the Affordable Housing complexes for sharing sites. He looked at the 24 complexes within the City and identified four possible sites. He talked with the McCune Foundation and they said if it was fleshed it out, they could come and ask for funds. The question is who would ask for funds. Albuquerque is working with PNM to expand their program. He discovered the People for Bikes Foundation and will be working to get grants of \$25,000 to increase bike share use in underserved communities. He is trying to think of things to get a cool program taking a leadership program nationally.

Mr. Aune said they will be hosting a meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> for a healthy debate about bike share and social equity. The Southside Library could be the location for a pilot project, if so subsidized and then work on ideas that trump the phone and credit card.

Chair Bushee asked what locations are being considered.

Mr. Aune said they are looking at the Santa Fe Railyard, South Capitol Station, City Hall/Plaza, Solana Center on West Alameda and others.

Chair Bushee asked about the Community College.

Mr. Aune said they could, but now they are looking at where they are underserved. Connections with transit are good and right now are looking at the program without asking for City funds. Zagster is the parent company who would hire local mechanics to maintain the bikes. They charge \$7,500 per station.

Chair Bushee wants to understand costs. \$7500 per station, can be sponsored and the opportunities to do that.

Mr. Aune said that was correct.

Chair Bushee asked if there was not a sponsor for the station.

Mr. Aune said organizations or businesses could be a sponsor and obtain the lease for the station.

Chair Bushee asked what the average costs would be.

Mr. Aune said the cost per user is \$25 per year in the Albuquerque model. Membership provides a one- hour free ride and then \$3 for each hour thereafter. The Albuquerque program is by a non-profit organization to make it affordable. For them, a membership is \$15 per month, and \$10 for a 24-hour pass. With the subsidized program in the affordable housing areas he suggested a nominal fee of \$10 per year. Chicago does the subsidized program at \$15 or \$20 per year.

Chair Bushee asked that he have all of that information ready before the November meeting.

Mr. Aune said he would put it together and get it out.

Chair Bushee said it is not a done deal and they are not asking for City funds, and there is some debate.

Member Rivera recalled there was a request for City funding at the last meeting.

Mr. Aune said the Mayor is interested and supportive and might be looking for funding.

Member Abbatacola said thanks for the work. He believes in piloting things to give it a try. He agreed it is important to serve different areas of the City and make it affordable for riders.

Mr. Aune said he spoke with John Alejandro in the Mayor's office last week. They are going to talk about bikeshare and solar.

Member Rivera want to be part of that conversation.

Member Grogan thanked Mr. Aune for researching the equity issues, for low income or whoever wants to use the system, but she did not know how that would work on the issues of geographic location, and smart phone and. She suggested they could buy a pass and scan the pass.

Mr. Aune said the challenge is security for the \$1,500 resource, the only security is the credit card and the smart phone. Paying cash doesn't work. Zagster is willing to help us figure out the security issue.

Member Grogan was in favor of this great idea and just the logistics need work.

Member Herdman went on the website and found the company operates without public support. Many aspects are just private sector driven. He would hate to see a Santa Fe message sent that says no to this innovative program. If there are then Texans riding bicycles in downtown Santa Fe at no public expense is a net benefit - 10 more bicycles on the road and 10 less SUVs. That is a net public benefit. On the website, hotels might buy a station each for 5 sites around town. That is not available to everyone. He did not support using public funds and is in support of private funding. He wants it as equitable as possible.

Chair Bushee pointed out that the City has given subsidies in bus passes and they are non-transferrable, but that could secure a bicycle. The holder would lose their pass if they failed to return the bicycle. She uses bicycle programs when she travels and they could work with Mr. Bulthuis about using remaining funds. Chainbreakers provide bicycles for this purpose. She would at least like to have the Southside Library and the Community College considered.

Member Pacheco asked if these bicycles were typical of those being ridden around town - a road bike or a mountain bike or even a scrambler.

Mr. Aune said the Zagster provides an opportunity to provide a bicycle to meet needs. For example, they can provide a bicycle station for senior citizens and off-road recreational bicycles. Typically, it is a 3

speed townie with a basket.

Member Pacheco saw the target audience for this bike sharing program different from the target for Chainbreakers. We need a program here. Santa Fe is ready for a bike sharing program. He described how it would be helpful for him and for his son. Chainbreakers has put 2,000 bicycles in the community and they should be involved in the conversation. There is a need for affordability and if done correctly, can eventually address equity. To be safer, we need more bicycles sooner rather than later. He asked if the \$7,500 station includes the bicycles.

Mr. Aune said yes - 5 bicycles per station. This provides the opportunity for businesses to provide a station. A combination of efforts would do this.

Member Pacheco said the start-off should not be with public funding.

Member Cooley on equity, in some way Chainbreakers good audience. It costs money to own and operate a bicycle, including storage. This is useful for someone struggling and not have to worry about the maintenance of the bicycle. He appreciated the work he is doing.

Chair Bushee served on a variety of transportation boards. Only in the last five years has alternative transportation risen enormously. She believed they should work with ideas to make it affordable and sponsors could introduce kids to the La Tierra Trail, and make mountain bikes available on the trails.

Mr. Aune hoped the City and County could work on it together. The public plays an enormous role.

Member Rivera said the New York City system is private. His concern is the concept of the City spending money on a project and felt that is not the way to move forward. Public transit is underfunded. Data collected from City Bike and the Denver areas already have resources and those get more resources. Councilor Bushee is correct. They need places to ride to on the south side. If you ride a bike to the grocery store on the south side, it is a long way, and that is part of the issues of putting this on the south side and not solely about equity.

Chair Bushee asked about the solar panel element.

Mr. Aune said it provides a frequency for mobile phones to use.

Chair Bushee asked if they could visit with PNM and ask them to pay for the solar stations.

Mr. Aune said each station has a solar element and they are working on that with Albuquerque and PNM.

Chair Bushee asked to keep this on the agenda.

#### **b. Conservation Trust, Trails Report (Tim Rogers)**

A copy of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust *Volunteer Trail Coordinator Reporting for September 2015 for BTAC*, is attached to these minutes as Exhibit 2.

Mr. Rogers commented that any way we can get more bicycles on the road, however that can be done, is good and works to the common good. He applauded Mr. Aune's efforts.

Mr. Rogers said the Trust continues to work on the soft surface trails. He was in touch with SF High School for volunteers and got more than they could handle, and hopefully in the spring they could bring someone out to help him.

## 7. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION & ACTION

- a. **Resolution to support developing a Grand Unified Trail system (GUTS) in and around the City of Santa Fe, and directing city and county staff to work with public and private sector partners to help achieve the "GUTS" vision (Tim Rogers)**

A copy of City of Santa Fe Resolution No. 2015-\_\_\_\_\_, is attached to the minutes as Exhibit 3.

Mr. Rogers said there are different partnership agreements, and he wanted the City and County to express support for this initiative, and direct staff to work on it. The County had lots of changes proposed to the partnership agreement so he is proposing it as a City Resolution now.

Chair Bushee wanted to make sure the City and County versions of the Resolution agreed. She asked that he take one more stab at it with Ms. McDonald and talk with Katherine Miller.

Mr. Rogers said he could, but it has taken a lot of time. He would rather move forward with City support. The County has indicated support for the initiative. There are a lot of partners that have agreed with it.

Member Grogan said there is one public and several private entities that have signed on as partners and shown in the whereas of the resolution. As project manager for the Commonwealth Conservancy, they are a partner with a 27-mile network. She asked if she could vote with this since she is already a partner.

Chair Bushee said it could be a conflict of interest.

Mr. Rogers said the number is growing, and on the website. He mentioned the NM Department of Health, National Park Service and he would be talking with SF Community College Board on October 28 and anticipated they will be signing a version of the Agreement. We will work with them to create the connection with the spur trail, so access by bicycle and on foot will happen.

Member Pacheco asked him to contact David Griscom at the County who said he is happy to help with the County.

Member Rivera quoted a Whereas statement and asked if that is where GUTS is. Mr. Rogers agreed.

Mr. Rogers said this covers the greater area around Santa Fe and they are looking at gaps. The Spur Trail is a critical piece and intended to be a model trail. They have moved to connectivity of the trails. It is a nice segue from work on the Bicycle Master Plan to have planning for soft surface trails. There is more information at the website.

Chair Bushee thought more of those details should be in the Resolution.

Member Pacheco suggested language.

**Member Abbatacola moved for concept approval. Member Rivera seconded the motion.**

Chair Bushee asked if there was no fiscal impact.

Mr. Rogers said only as a result of the trail work.

Chair Bushee wanted it to have the entities with resources in it and more detail for later when questions arise.

Ms. McDonald asked if Chair Bushee would be a sponsor of the Resolution and work with Mr. Rogers to see where it is going.

**The motion was approved on a unanimous voice vote with Gretchen Grogan recused.**

**b. MPO – Biking Parking Code (Nathan Todd)**

Mr. Todd drafted a Biking Parking Code, with guidelines. [attached as Exhibit 4.] He also handed out a copy of selected elements of the City of Santa Fe Code, Chapter 14 [attached as Exhibit 5].

Mr. Todd explained the reason for the proposed code is that it once was in the code but “mysteriously” had been taken out. He had asked Jesse Guillen to draft it but he wanted this to come to BTAC first.

Ms. McDonald excited to have more guidelines, because operating under the one in Chapter 14 has been lacking.

Member Herdman asked if there is anything

Member Rivera asked how to get this in Chapter 14.

Mr. Todd said it would be an ordinance change sponsored by a Councilor.

Member Herdman asked if something is in Chapter 14 now.

Mr. Todd said no.



Member Herdman said what happens such as with the City Building Code is codified in a version from ordinances passed over time and sometimes things are not included by omission and fall through the cracks. Section 3 has a reference.

Mr. Todd said the Guidelines came from the Bicycle Master Plan. The only existing part is a chart with numbers put into the Code as he drafted. It is an on-line grid which he included.

Chair Bushee asked how it is enforced.

Ms. McDonald said they use the chart in the Code

Member Herdman said it does not include any specifics of when it is triggered.

Chair Bushee said that has to be part of the Plan check.

Member Herdman said the trigger point of the obligation is of critical importance. What it is supposed to be has disappeared from the Code.

Mr. Todd agreed and he could use information from Member Herdman.

Member Abbatacola mentioned a large store with no bicycle parking. He asked where the teeth would be and what would happen which now is nothing. Violators could be sent to Court but nobody has been fined. Home Depot knew they had to do have bicycle racks somehow.

Member Herdman said what happens is that the architect goes to the City Code for Bicycle Parking. When there is nothing there and with passage of time, plans are approved without bicycle parking provided. And the City cannot undo the approval. The Code needs to be synthesized into a checklist to make sure that requirement is included.

He said he would investigate to see if it was left out of the Code, and if not in the Code, it is a problem.

Member Rivera pointed out that if it was adopted by Ordinance it should still be a law.

Member Herdman said when the City codified it, and when it is amended they will take the codified version. Possible it slipped through the cracks as a part of that process. He understood the online Code is pretty accurate and any amendments accurately included.

Chair Bushee said she would hate that if it was left out.

Member Herdman asked that it be back on the agenda next month and evaluate what has gone missing, and try to get that back into the Code.

Chair Bushee said it cannot be left out of the Code. It was one of the first things she put into the Code. She noted that Matt O'Reilly was big on having these charts in the Code.

Member Rivera said even if it is there, changes might still be needed.

Chair Bushee added that it should provide when that is enforced.

Member Grogan agreed and that should be in the checklist that is handed to the developer when applying for a construction permit.

Member Herdman agreed to look into this. He asked that it be on the next agenda and have Mr. Todd evaluate what is missing.

Mr. Todd said his internship is over in November.

Chair Bushee thanked him for his work.

#### **c. Approval of 2016 Meeting Schedule**

Ms. McDonald said the schedule is every third Wednesday of the month for 2016.

**Member Grogan moved to approve the 2016 Meeting Schedule as presented. Member Herdman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice vote.**

#### **8. BTAC SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES – Re-evaluation of standing subcommittees (Councilor Bushee, Staff)**

Member Herdman said they are long overdue for a final accounting of what funds remain from the bond money ... Chair Bushee interrupted with a comment about a Thanksgiving pot luck in November.

Member Herdman said the report on La Tierra Trails final accounting is long overdue. They put in the bridge a year ago and the BTAC was going to see if any money was left. If any, BTAC should decide what to do with it.

Ms. McDonald said she would ask John Romero to report at the next meeting.

Member Herdman believed Leroy Pacheco had that information.

Chair Bushee said she wanted a report on a trail that imposed on some condo property.

Ms. McDonald said she would report on that next time.

Chair Bushee said as far as subcommittees are concerned, BTAC is down to four now and there have not been many reports.

Ms. Grogan said the On-Road Subcommittee does meet when discussing how to allocate the CIP money or bike lanes. She thought they should meet every couple of months and have a discussion. She said she could not recall ever hearing a report from the Mountain Bike Subcommittee and didn't know who was on it.

Ms. McDonald wondered if they should have an off-road subcommittee to report on the trails.

Chair Bushee asked Ms. McDonald to get in touch with members and see who would serve. She wanted to keep the La Tierra Master Plan so they would not need to amend the Resolution.

BTAC members discussed and made comments on the subcommittees including commitments to serve.

The Committee agreed to rename the Mountain Bike Subcommittee as the Off-Road Subcommittee.

**a. On-Road**

There was no report given.

**b. Mountain Bike**

There was no report given.

**c. Bike Education and Outreach**

There was no report given.

**d. La Tierra Master Plan**

There was no report given.

**9. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS – Project updates**

Ms. McDonald reported the underpass RFP was awarded on 10/12/15 and construction is scheduled in 2016 and will take 4-6 months. They will break ground in January.

Chair Bushee asked to have a more updated trail list and consider bike parking as their main topics for the November meeting.

Chair Bushee reminded Ms. McDonald that they want an abbreviated meeting for November because of the Thanksgiving pot luck.

## 10. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Member Cooley asked to be excused from the next meeting.

The Committee talked about who brings what dishes for the November meeting.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the BTAC, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

***Next Scheduled Meeting for BTAC is November 18, 2015, Packet Material due by November 11, 2015***

Approved by:

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Patti J. Bushee, Chair

Submitted by:

  

Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc)